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FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6192  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0061  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE 2228

UNCLAS YEREVAN 001062

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INFO CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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MOSCOW FOR USDA/KIM SVEC

E.O. 129581: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [SENV](#) [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [AM](#)

SUBJECT: 8/28 UPDATE ON AFRICAN SWINE FEVER OUTBREAK IN ARMENIA

REF: A) YEREVAN 1051 B) YEREVAN 1056

¶1. The Russian government has confirmed that the suspect virus affecting swine in Armenia is in fact ASF. The testing was done at a laboratory at the Institute of Virology and Microbiology in Pokrov. Upon receipt of an official letter, Armenia will be obligated to inform the World Veterinary Organization (OIE). Timing of this letter's arrival is unknown.

¶2. Russian veterinary authorities have agreed to try to gather some test kits to send to Armenia from existing Russian supplies, but cannot promise many.

¶3. Approximately 1,000 pigs have been slaughtered in Armenia so far. No new areas of outbreak turned up on August 28, but there are more infected pigs in Barekamavan village, Tavush region (near the Georgian border). There are many free-range swine on the Georgia/Azerbaijan border. The National Security Service, police, veterinarians and fire brigades have been helping to contain the spread of the virus. They are shooting free-range swine when spotted, and have announced that residents should pen up their swine immediately or risk having the animals shot.

¶4. The virus samples will finally depart for Pirbright labs in London late August 28, through the UN/FAO diplomatic pouch. It appears that Armenian Customs would not allow the samples through because Armenia does not have an "agreement" with Britain. This point is a bit murky. Minister of Agriculture Lokyan could not get the samples freed, so FAO agreed to send them by diplomatic pouch, even though we have been unable to identify any requirement for a bilateral agreement to accomplish this. The British lab results, which would presumably confirm the Russian finding, may be available as early as Friday if the samples are in fact shipped the evening of August 28 as scheduled.

¶5. A request for assistance has been received from the Armenian Chief Veterinary Office (CVO) by USDA/Armenia. The request includes:

- Money for gasoline for the veterinarians' vehicles and diesel fuel for machinery to dig holes in which to bury the slaughtered animals;
- Disinfectants. Vericones is preferred, but the GOAM will accept bleach;
- Many test kits.

¶6. USDA/Yerevan was asked pointedly today what it will be able to

provide from this list. Embassy Yerevan is now in the process of reviewing resources that could be applied from agencies/programs already at post. Post's recommendation, however, is that no new significant assistance resources be deployed against this outbreak until the British laboratory has confirmed that the virus is indeed ASF. Post understands that gasoline and diesel are commodities which USDA will be unable to supply.

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